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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CHEN, PO WEI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/929,400

Applicant(s)

SAMRA ET AL.

Examiner

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-15 and 19-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 16-18 and 24-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

In response to an Amendment received on April 28, 2004. This action is final.

Claims 1 and 4-37 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-5, 10, 12, 15-16, 19-20 and 36-37 are independent claims.

The present title of the invention is "Media Production System Using Flowgraph Representation of Operations".

The Group Art Unit of the Examiner case is now 2676. Please use the proper Art Unit number to help us serve you better.

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims 4-15 and 19-23 are drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply filed on April 28, 2004. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 16-18, 24-28 and 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto in view of Hekmatpour et al. (US 5,982,350).

4. Regarding claim 1, Sugimoto discloses a method for displaying a history of image processing comprising:

A method for modifying a pixel value of a digital image, the method executing in a digital processing system (lines 14-37 of column 8 and Table 1; while claim recites modifying a pixel, by using the pixel editor will modify at least one pixel of the image);

Accepting a signal from a user input device to indicate a first operation to be performed on a pixel; displaying a result of the first operation on the pixel; accepting a signal from a user input device to indicate a second operation to be performed on a pixel; displaying result of the first and second operations on the pixel; maintaining an association between and operations (line 14 of column 6 to line 31 of column 7 and line 52 of column 8 to line 13 of column 9 and Fig. 3 and 6). It is noted that the user is able to correct the image by using various of operations and each previously processed image by the corresponding operation will be displayed in a sequence.

Sugimoto does not disclose displaying a visual sequence of the first and second operations on the display screen wherein a first visual indicator corresponds to the first operation and a second visual indicator corresponds to the second operation, and wherein the order of application of operations is shown; accepting a signal from a user input device to indicate modification of the visual sequence; and displaying a result of a corresponding change in application of the operations in response to the modification of the visual sequence. Hekmatpour discloses an interface for arranging image-compositing components utilizing the method (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and line 53 of column 11 to line 7 of column 12 and Fig. 3-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Hekmatpour to provide the user an easy way to use rich and full-feature environment to generate quality images (lines 1-4 of column 4, Hekmatpour).

5. Regarding claim 16, statements presented above, with respect to claim 1 are incorporated herein.
6. Regarding claims 17-18, Sugimoto does not disclose a flowgraph, wherein the flowgraph includes nodes that correspond to operations, wherein the nodes are connected by connectors to show the order of execution of operations. Hekmatpour discloses an interface for arranging image-composting components utilizing the method (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and Fig. 3-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Hekmatpour to provide the user an easy way to use rich and full-feature environment to generate quality images (lines 1-4 of column 4, Hekmatpour).
7. Regarding claim 24-26, Sugimoto does not disclose modification of the visual sequence includes: deletion and addition of a visual indication of an operation; changing an order of application of operations. Hekmatpour discloses an interface for arranging image-composting components utilizing the method (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and Fig. 4-5; by adding or deleting the visual indication of an operation will change the order of application operations). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Hekmatpour to provide the user an easy way to use rich and full-feature environment to generate quality images (lines 1-4 of column 4, Hekmatpour).
8. Regarding claims 27-28, Sugimoto does not disclose indicating the first and second operations as first and second nodes, respectively and indicating the order of application of operations as a line connecting the first and second nodes. Hekmatpour discloses an interface for arranging image-composting components utilizing the method (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and Fig. 4-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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of invention to utilize the teaching of Hekmatpour to provide the user an easy way to use rich and full-feature environment to generate quality images (lines 1-4 of column 4, Hekmatpour).

9. Regarding claim 32, statements presented above, with respect to claim 1 are incorporated herein. It is noted that the user is able to add operation to the graph for processing the images (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and Fig. 4-5, Hekmatpour).

10. Regarding claim 33, Sugimoto discloses a method for displaying a history of image processing comprising:

An operation can include one or more of the following: brightness adjustment, clamp effect, contrast, convert, crop, dissolve, fade, gain, gamma, invert, CMY graph, luma graph, monochrome, offset and swap RGBA (lines 14-36 of column 6).

11. Regarding claim 34, Sugimoto discloses a method for displaying a history of image processing comprising:

An operation include obtaining a pixel from a storage location (lines 32-56 of column 5; by retrieving the image will obtain at least one pixel from the storage location).

12. Regarding claim 35, Sugimoto does not disclose an operation includes an output operation. Hekmatpour discloses an interface for arranging image-composting components utilizing the method (line 40 of column 6 to line 10 of column 7 and line 53 of column 11 to line 7 of column 12 and Fig. 4-5; composite corresponds to output since the system automatically display the final composite image). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to utilize the teaching of Hekmatpour to provide the user an easy way to use rich and full-feature environment to generate quality images (lines 1-4 of column 4, Hekmatpour).

13. Regarding claims 36-37, statements presented above, with respect to claim 1 are incorporated herein.

14. Claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto (US 6,750,890) and Hekmatpour et al. (US 5,982,350) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Esslinger et al. (US 5,852,449; refer to as Esslinger herein).

15. Regarding claims 29-31, the combination of Sugimoto and Hekmatpour does not disclose an order of application of operations is indicated with a directional indicator associated with the line; the directional indicator includes an arrow or an input port. Esslinger discloses a graphical display of modeled system designs with flowgraph utilizing the functions (Fig. 7-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hekmatpour by substituting flowgraph directional indicator of Esslinger for the flowgraph directional indicator of Hekmatpour to provide a more clear and better presentation of the flowgraph which is easier for user to understand.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 36 and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8365. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C Bella can be reached on (703) 308-6829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2676

Po-Wei (Dennis) Chen
June 18, 2004



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600